

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GUY FAIRON

Plaintiff(s),

v.

NATURAL TONIC CENTER, et al.

Defendant(s).

CASE NO:
8:18-cv-01420-JVS-DFM

INITIAL ORDER FOLLOWING
FILING OF COMPLAINT
ASSIGNED TO JUDGE SELNA

Important Notice: The Court posts tentative law and motions rulings
to the internet. Please see Section P, below

COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF SHALL SERVE THIS ORDER ON ALL DEFENDANTS AND/OR THEIR COUNSEL ALONG WITH THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT, OR IF THAT IS NOT PRACTICABLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER. IF THIS CASE WAS ASSIGNED TO THIS COURT AFTER BEING REMOVED FROM STATE COURT, THE DEFENDANT WHO REMOVED THE CASE SHALL SERVE THIS ORDER ON ALL OTHER PARTIES.

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1 This case has been assigned to the calendar of Judge James V. Selna.

2 The intent of this Order is to ensure that this case will proceed so as "to secure [a]
3 just, speedy and inexpensive determination." (Fed.R.Civ. P., Rule 1.)

4

5 **A. THE COURT'S ORDERS**

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7 Copies of Judge Selna's orders that may have specific application to
8 this case are available on the Central District of California website. See ¶ N.

9 Those orders include the following:

- 10
- 11 (1) Order Setting Rule 26(f) Scheduling Conference
12 (2) Order re Civil Jury Trials
13 (3) Order re Civil Court Trials
14 (3) Order re RICO Case Statement

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16 **B. SERVICE OF PLEADINGS**

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18 Although Fed.R.Civ.P., Rule 4(m) does not require the summons and
19 complaint to be served for as much as 120 days, the Court expects that the initial
20 pleadings will be served much sooner than that, and will require plaintiff to show
21 cause before then if it appears that there is undue delay.

22

23 **C. ASSIGNMENT TO A MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

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25 Under 28 U.S.C. § 636, the parties may consent to have a Magistrate
26 Judge preside over all proceedings, including trial. The Magistrate Judges who
27 accept those designations are identified on the Central District's website, which
28 also contains the consent form. See ¶ N.

1 **D. EX PARTE PRACTICE**

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3 *Ex parte* applications are solely for extraordinary relief and should
4 be used with discretion. See Mission Power Engineering Company v.
5 Continental Casualty Co., 883 F. Supp. 488 (C. D. Cal. 1995). The Court will
6 generally decide *ex parte* matters on the papers. Opposition to an *ex parte*
7 application, if any, should be submitted within 24 hours.
8

9 **E. APPLICATIONS AND STIPULATIONS FOR EXTENSIONS
10 OF TIME**

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12 No stipulations extending scheduling requirements or modifying
13 applicable rules are effective until and unless the Court approves them. Both
14 applications and stipulations must set forth:

- 15
16 1. The existing due date or hearing date;
17
18 2. Specific, concrete reasons supporting good cause for granting
19 the extension. In this regard, a statement that an extension "will promote
20 settlement" is insufficient. The requesting party or parties must indicate the
21 status of ongoing negotiations: Have written proposals been exchanged? Is
22 counsel in the process of reviewing a draft settlement agreement? Has a mediator
23 been selected?

- 24
25 3. Whether there have been prior requests for extensions, and
26 whether these were granted or denied by the Court.

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1 **F. TROs AND INJUNCTIONS**

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3 Parties seeking emergency or provisional relief shall comply with
4 F.R.Civ.P., Rule 65 and Local Rule 65. The Court will not rule on any
5 application for such relief for at least 24 hours after the party subject to the
6 requested order has been served; such party may file opposing or responding
7 papers in the interim.

8
9 **G. CASES REMOVED FROM STATE COURT**

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11 All documents filed in state court, including documents appended to
12 the complaint, answers and motions, must be refiled in this Court as a supplement
13 to the Notice of Renewal, if not already included. See 28 U.S.C. § 1447(a),(b). If
14 the defendant has not yet answered or moved, the answer or responsive pleading
15 filed in this Court must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the
16 Local Rules of the Central District. If before the case was removed a motion was
17 pending in state court, it must be re-noticed in accordance with Local Rule 7.

18
19 **H. STATUS OF FICTITIOUSLY NAMED DEFENDANTS**

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21 This Court intends to adhere to the following procedures where a matter
22 is removed to this Court on diversity grounds with fictitiously named defendants.
23 (See 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a) and 1447.)

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25 1. Plaintiff is normally expected to ascertain the identity of and
26 serve any fictitiously named defendants within 120 days of the removal of the action
27 to this Court.

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1 2. If plaintiff believes (by reason of the necessity for discovery or
2 otherwise) that fictitiously named defendants cannot be fully identified within the
3 120-day period, an *ex parte* application requesting permission to extend that period
4 to effectuate service may be filed with this Court. Such application shall state the
5 reasons therefor, and may be granted upon a showing of good cause. The *ex parte*
6 application shall be served upon all appearing parties, and shall state that appearing
7 parties may comment within seven (7) days of the filing of the *ex parte* application.
8

9 3. If plaintiff desires to substitute a named defendant for one of the
10 fictitiously named parties, plaintiff first shall seek to obtain consent from counsel
11 for the previously-identified defendants (and counsel for the fictitiously named
12 party, if that party has separate counsel). If consent is withheld or denied, plaintiff
13 may apply *ex parte* requesting such amendment, with notice to all appearing
14 parties. Each party shall have seven calendar days to respond. The *ex parte*
15 application and any response should comment not only on the substitution of the
16 named party for a fictitiously named defendant, but on the question of whether the
17 matter should thereafter be remanded to the Superior Court if diversity of
18 citizenship is destroyed by the addition of the new substituted party. *See U.S.C. §*
19 1447(c), (d).

20

21 **I. BANKRUPTCY APPEALS**

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23 Counsel shall comply with the ORDER RE PROCEDURE TO BE
24 FOLLOWED IN APPEAL FROM BANKRUPTCY COURT issued at the time the
25 appeal is filed in the District Court.

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J. MOTIONS UNDER FED.R.CIV.P. RULE 12

Many motions to dismiss or to strike could be avoided if the parties confer in good faith (as they are required to do under L.R. 7-3), especially for perceived defects in a complaint, answer or counterclaim which could be corrected by amendment. See Chang v. Chen, 80 F.3d 1293, 1296 (9th Cir. 1996) (where a motion to dismiss is granted, a district court should provide leave to amend unless it is clear that the complaint could not be saved by any amendment). Moreover, a party has the right to amend his complaint "once as a matter of course at any time before a responsive pleading is served." Fed.R.Civ.P., Rule 15(a). A 12(b)(6) motion is not a responsive pleading and therefore plaintiff might have a right to amend. See Nolen v. Fitzharris, 450 F.2d 958, 958-59 (9th Cir. 1971); St. Michael's Convalescent Hospital v. California, 643 F.2d 1369, 1374 (9th Cir. 1981). And even where a party has amended his Complaint once or a responsive pleading has been served, the Federal Rules provide that leave to amend should be "freely given when justice so requires." F.R.Civ.P., Rule 15(a). The Ninth Circuit requires that this policy favoring amendment be applied with "extreme liberality." Morongo Band of Mission Indians v. Rose, 893 F.2d 1074, 1079 (9th Cir. 1990).

These principles require that counsel for the plaintiff should carefully evaluate the defendant's contentions as to the deficiencies in the complaint, and that in many instances the moving party should agree to any amendment that would cure a curable defect.

The moving party shall attach a copy of the challenged pleading to the Memorandum of Points and Authorities in support of the motion.

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The foregoing provisions apply as well to motions to dismiss a counterclaim, answer or affirmative defense, which a plaintiff might contemplate bringing.

K. REQUIREMENTS FOR BRIEFS

In addition to the requirements in Local Rule 11, the Court requires the following for all briefs:

1. No footnote shall exceed 5 lines. The Court strongly discourages the use of extensive footnotes as a subterfuge to avoid page limitations in the Local Rules.

2. All footnotes shall be in the same type size as text. See Local Rule 11-3.1.1.

3. Each case cited shall include a jump cite to the page or pages where the relevant authority appears (e.g., United States v. Doe, 500 U. S. 1, 14, 17 (1997)).

Failure to follow these requirements may result in rejection of a brief for correction.

L. LEAD COUNSEL

Lead counsel shall appear on all dispositive motions, scheduling conferences, and settlement conferences. **The Court does not entertain special appearances; only counsel of record may appear.**

1 **M. COURTESY COPIES**

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3 A courtesy copy of all electronically filed pleadings shall be delivered
4 to Judge Selna's courtesy copy drop on the tenth floor at the rear of the elevator
5 lobby by noon the day following filing. **Failure to make timely delivery of the**
6 **courtesy copies may result in a delay in hearing a motion or ordering the**
7 **matter off calendar.**

8
9 **N. ELECTRONIC COPIES**

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11 When the Court requires an electronic copy of a document (*e.g.*, with
12 proposed jury instructions), a copy shall be submitted at time of filing in one of the
13 following manners: providing a copy on a disk, CD, or thumb drive in a labeled
14 envelope and lodged with the clerk; or by e-mailing a copy to the Courtroom
15 Deputy (JVS_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov). Regardless of media, the document
16 should be formatted in WordPerfect9 or higher.

17
18 **O. WEBSITE**

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20 Copies of this Order and other orders of this Court are available on the
21 Central District of California's website, at "www.cacd.uscourts.gov" at Judge
22 Selna's home page located under "Judge's Procedures and Schedules."

23
24 **P. TENTATIVES–DAY OF HEARING AND WEB POSTING**

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26 The Court attempts to issue tentative rulings on each motion. Tentatives
27 will be posted on the Court's website: www.cacd.uscourts.gov/. From the home
28 page, click on "Judges' Procedures and Schedules" in the left column. From the

list click on "Hon. James V. Selna," which will take you to Judge Selna's page.

Click on the red notice in the upper left: "Click here to view Tentative Rulings." Then click on the desired ruling which comes up in a .pdf file which can be read with an Adobe Acrobat reader. Judge Selna attempts to post tentatives by late Friday afternoon preceding the hearing date. Hard copies of tentatives will also be available from the clerk approximately 15 minutes before the hearing.

The Court thanks counsel and the parties for their anticipated cooperation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

James V. Nelson

DATED: September 19, 2018

**James V. Selna
United States District Judge**